



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

flict is specifically brought about for the sole purpose of making the argument that all testimony on the subject is therefore nullified and the judge or referee or reviewing court takes this same view, then perjury and stupidity has accomplished their intended purpose and have succeeded in defeating the ends of justice."

The reader may very likely not agree with all of Mr. Osborn's contentions and naturally not all of the discussions are of equal value, but it is safe to say that no trial attorney or prospective technical witness can read the book without being well repaid for the time employed and it is beyond doubt that the author has accomplished what he states to be the main purpose of the book—"to help the lawyer who has a case to try in which it becomes necessary to prove the facts relating to a disputed document."

Warren, Pa.

EDWARD LINDSEY.

THE PUBLIC CONSCIENCE. By *George Clarke Cox*. New York, 1922. Henry Holt & Co. Pp. vii + 477.

This book provides us, as Professor Cabot remarks in his introduction, with something new in ethics. It is an attempt to study moral conduct by the "case method," as this is employed in law and medicine. More strictly, the book presents an *opportunity* to study ethics by the case method. The book provides the cases. These are drawn entirely from the legal field. It is a record of offenses charged and legal decisions actually made. As such it reveals the "public conscience" as this has been expressed in public judgments.

Mr. Cox is strongly of the opinion that the study of ethics can only be advanced by the "descriptive method"; by a painstaking observation and tabulation and analysis of moral judgments as these are actually made by men. Legal decisions furnish us with a great mass of data to work upon. The present collection of cases had to do with such topics as murder, burglary, breaches of trust, carrying concealed weapons, Sunday laws, right of assembly trust regulation. These instances are selected at random. Mr. Cox presents his material to be sure, in a logical order, although the order has no special ethical significance.

The reviewer feels that any brief criticism of Mr. Cox's venture would be worse than useless. It seems that we are to repeat here, as in so many of the social sciences, the attempt to arrive at conclusions through the "purely descriptive" method of research. It is possible that this method has been over-played. No doubt many, however, will welcome what seems like a serious effort to bring ethics, still under bondage to philosophy, into the status of a really empirical "science." They will welcome Mr. Cox's contribution as a desirable addition, also, to the teacher's stock in trade. All who are of this faith will doubtless recognize, with Mr. Cox, that the legal material presented in this book has its limitations. Most obviously, perhaps, in the respect that the cases of conduct presented are elemental and show no subtlety in the moral situation; and, again, in the respect that we here consider only cases of reprehensible conduct and never instances of praiseworthy

conduct motivated by ideals. Mr. Cox's compilation of data, of course, can be added to by any observant teacher or student *ad libitum*. There is no reason, indeed, why an individual might not go on compiling cases forever.

Northwestern University.

D. T. HOWARD.